



U.S.A.

TODD NICELY
A SOLDIER'S HEART

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LAKE OZARK, MISSOURI, USA. 25 MAY 2015.
TODD NICELY PLAYING WITH HIS DOG, XERXES,
A BULLDOG LIKE THE USMC'S MASCOT.



MARCH 26TH 2010. CPL. TODD NICELY, 26, WAS LEADING A PATROL IN LAKARI, HELMAND PROVINCE, SOUTHERN AFGHANISTAN, WITH 12 MARINES OF THE 1ST SQUAD, 1ST PLATOON, COMPANY F, 2ND BATTALION, 2ND MARINES WHEN HIS LIFE CHANGED FOREVER. HE AND HIS SQUAD WERE WALKING IN STAGGERED FORMATION, AND THEY WERE AT THE FOOT OF A BRIDGE WHEN HE STEPPED ON A DEVICE CONSISTING OF 40 POUNDS OF HOME-MADE EXPLOSIVES. THERE WAS A SMALL CLICKING SOUND, AND THEN AN ENORMOUS BLAST BROKE THE SILENCE, KNOCKING OVER THE WHOLE PATROL. CPL. NICELY WAS THROWN IN THE AIR IN A CLOUD OF DUST AND DEBRIS, AND WHEN HE LANDED, NEAR THE RIVER BANK, HE WAS STILL CONSCIOUS. HE CRIED OUT IN PAIN, TWICE, AND HE IMMEDIATELY UNDERSTOOD HOW SERIOUSLY WOUNDED HE WAS: MUCH OF HIS RIGHT ARM WAS GONE, JUST LIKE HIS LEFT HAND AND HIS RIGHT LEG, WHILE HIS LEFT LEG WAS BARELY ATTACHED. A FRIEND REMEMBERS THAT SHRAPNEL WAS LODGED IN TODD'S JAW, AND THAT IT WAS JUTTING OUT OF HIS LEFT CHEEK. HE ALSO HAD AN ABDOMINAL WOUND, WHICH MEANT THAT PART OF HIS BOWEL WAS PROTRUDING. STILL TODD NEVER THOUGHT HE WOULD DIE. HE DID NOT WANT TO DIE: HE WANTED TO GO BACK HOME TO HIS WIFE.

HIS COMRADES IN ARMS WERE THE FIRST TO RUSH TO HIS HELP. THE HELICOPTER ARRIVED SIX MINUTES LATER AND TODD WAS TAKEN TO THE MILITARY HOSPITAL. LATER HE WAS FLOWN BACK TO THE UNITED STATES, TO THE WALTER REED MEDICAL CENTER ARMY IN BETHESDA, MARYLAND.

WHEN TODD WOKE UP, HIS FIRST THOUGHTS WERE FOR HIS FELLOW COMRADES: "WAS ANYONE ELSE HURT?"

HE LATER BEGAN HIS LONG JOURNEY OF REHABILITATION. IN A YEAR-AND-A-HALF, CPL. NICELY HAD TO LEARN TO WALK AGAIN, THIS TIME BY USING CARBON FIBER ARTIFICIAL LIMBS, TO SHAVE, WITH HIS NEW ARTIFICIAL HANDS, TO EAT, USING A KNIFE TO CUT THE MEAT. HE RECEIVED THE SILVER STAR, THE MEDAL OF VALOR AND THE PURPLE HEART, BUT AT THE SAME TIME HE HAD TO LEARN TO DO EVERYTHING ALL OVER AGAIN, RELYING ON HIS MECHANICAL ARMS, WHICH DON'T REACT TO MUSCULAR STIMULUS.



LAKE OZARK, MISSOURI, USA. 15 APRIL 2014.
TODD NICELY SHAVING IN HIS BATHROOM IN THE MORNING. THANKS TO HIS ARTIFICIAL LIMBS,
AND HIS "SMART HOME," WHICH WAS DONATED BY THE TUNNEL TO TOWERS FOUNDATION
AND THE GARY SINISE FOUNDATION, HE IS ALMOST COMPLETELY SELF-SUFFICIENT.



LAKE OZARK, MISSOURI, USA. 13 APRIL 2014

CPL. TODD NICELY, A QUAD AMPUTEE MARINE WHO LOST HIS LIMBS AFTER AN ACCIDENT
IN AFGHANISTAN, RESTING IN THE BEDROOM OF HIS HOME IN LAKE OZARK, MISSOURI.

TODD RECEIVED A LOT OF HELP FROM JOSHUA CHAMBERLAIN SOCIETY, WHICH WILL PAY HIS BILLS FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE, AND FROM THE STEPHEN SILLER'S TUNNELS TO TOWER FOUNDATION. THIS ORGANIZATION, WITH THE HELP OF THE GARY SINISE FOUNDATION (GARY SINISE IS THE ACTOR WHO PLAYED LT. DAN TAYLOR, THE SOLDIER WHO LOSES HIS LEGS IN THE MOVIE FORREST GUMP), BUILT TODD A NEW HOME IN LAKE OZARK, MISSOURI. TODD SHARES THIS WITH HIS BELOVED DOG, XERXES, A BULLDOG, JUST LIKE THE MASCOT OF HIS BATTALION. THE HOUSE HAS PLENTY OF SMART TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING AN ELEVATOR, AUTOMATED CLOSETS AND RAMPS.

IN FEBRUARY 2014, TODD SEPARATED FROM HIS WIFE AND NOW IT IS HIS MOTHER JULIE WHO LOOKS AFTER HIM. AND YET, THANKS TO HIS INNER STRENGTH AND HIS SMART HOUSE, TODD IS SELF-SUFFICIENT IN ALMOST EVERYTHING: COOKING, DRIVING HIS CAR, TAKING OUT THE GARBAGE, LIGHTING A CIGARETTE.

THE EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 11TH 2001 CHANGED HIS LIFE, TRIGGERING HIS DECISION TO JOIN THE MARINE CORPS. "PUT ME IN THE INFANTRY", HE DEMANDED BEFORE BEING ASSIGNED, BUT MARCH 26TH 2010 WAS TO BE THE SECOND TURNING POINT IN HIS LIFE. NEVERTHELESS, CPL. TODD NICELY, A QUAD AMPUTEE, WILL ALWAYS BE A MARINE. EVEN NOW, WITH NO REGRETS. HE STILL PLAYS WAR VIDEOGAMES, HIS DOG TAGS ARE CLOSE TO HAND, AND HIS PICK-UP IS MILITARY GREEN.

AT THE BEGINNING OF JUNE 2016, TODD NICELY TRIED TO KILL HIMSELF WITH HIS OWN GUN IN THE BEDROOM OF HIS HOUSE. HE SURVIVED, AND NOW, AFTER A COMPLEX PSYCHOLOGICAL REHABILITATION, HE HAS DECIDED TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE IN ECONOMICS IN ORDER TO TRY AND GET HIS LIFE BACK.



LAKE OZARK, MISSOURI, USA. 14 APRIL 2014.
TODD NICELY'S CLOSET CONTAINING HIS ARTIFICIAL LIMBS. HE HAS DIFFERENT
PAIRS OF ARMS AND LEGS WHICH HE USES INTERCHANGEABLY ACCORDING TO HIS NEEDS.



LAKE OZARK, MISSOURI, USA. 13 APRIL 2014.
CPL. TODD NICELY DRIVING HIS CAR, A CUSTOM-MADE PICK-UP ADAPTED TO BE
DRIVEN WITH HIS ARTIFICIAL ARMS. HE ALWAYS SMOKES WHEN HE DRIVES.



LAKE OZARK, MISSOURI, USA. 24 MAY 2015.

TODD NICELY LOOKING AT THE SON OF HIS BEST FRIEND JAKE WHILE
SHARING A BEER WITH HIS BROTHER MIKE AND HIS FRIENDS DURING MEMORIAL DAY

LAKE OZARK, MISSOURI, USA, 13 APRIL 2014.
TODD NICELY HAVING DINNER AT HOME, IN LAKE OZARK. THE HARDEST
THING FOR HIM WAS TO LEARN TO DO EVERYTHING WITHOUT HIS HANDS,
FROM BRUSHING HIS TEETH TO USING A FORK.





LAKE OZARK, MISSOURI, USA. 11 MAY 2016.
TODD NICELY, PLAYING WITH HIS CUSTOMIZED XBOX CONTROLLER
AT HOME, WHILE HIS BULLDOG XERXES LIES ON THE FLOOR.



LAKE OZARK, MISSOURI, USA.
13 APRIL 2014. TODD NICELY WEARING THE SAME ARTIFICIAL LIMBS
THAT HE USES FOR RUNNING AND FOR DRIVING HIS CUSTOM-MADE CAR.

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, USA, 14 MAY 2016.
TODD NICELY, AT A JOSHUA CHAMBERLAIN SOCIETY CHARITY EVENT.
THE ASSOCIATION HELPS HIM BY PAYING HIS BILLS.



LAKE OZARK, MISSOURI, USA. 25 MAY 2015.
TODD NICELY AND HIS MOTHER, JULIE, CELEBRATING
HIS BIRTHDAY IN THE KITCHEN OF TODD'S HOUSE.





ST. LOUIS MISSOURI, USA. 2015.
TODD NICELY AND HIS FAMILY CELEBRATING HIS NEPHEW'S BIRTHDAY,
IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI AT THE HOME OF HIS SISTER NIKKY.



LAKE OZARK, MISSOURI, USA. 2015.
TODD NICELY PLAYING WITH XERXES AT HOME,
IN LAKE OZARK, DURING MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND.



LAKE OZARK, MISSOURI, USA, 12 MARCH 2016.
TODD NICELY HAVING SOME TARGET PRACTICE
AT THE SHOOTING RANGE.



ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, USA, 14 MAY 2016.
TODD NICELY, AT A JOSHUA CHAMBERLAIN CHARITY EVENT
WITH HIS BROTHER IN ARMS, ON HIS LEFT, SEAN HARRIGAN,
WHO SAVED HIM AFTER HE WAS SEVERELY INJURED BY THE IED.



TODD,
I CAN'T EXPLAIN HOW MUCH OF A PRIVILEGE IT WAS TO SERVE WITH YOU.
WHEN YOU LOOK AT THIS PICTURE YOU'RE LOOKING AT MARINES WITH
THE UTMOST PRIDE AND RESPECT TO CALL YOU THEIR LEADER
AND BROTHER. YOU ARE A TRUE WARRIOR! I REALLY DON'T
KNOW WHERE THEY FIND MARINES LIKE YOU!
LT BRIAN McGRATH
PFC 12/10

LAKE OZARK, MISSOURI, USA. 11 APRIL 2014. CPL. TODD NICELY'S SQUAD, THE 12 MARINES WHO WERE WITH HIM IN 2010, IN AFGHANISTAN, HELMAND PROVINCE, WHEN HE STEPPED ON A HOME-MADE EXPLOSIVE DEVICE AND LOST ALL OF HIS LIMBS. IT'S ONE OF THE LAST PICTURES OF HIM BEFORE THE ACCIDENT.

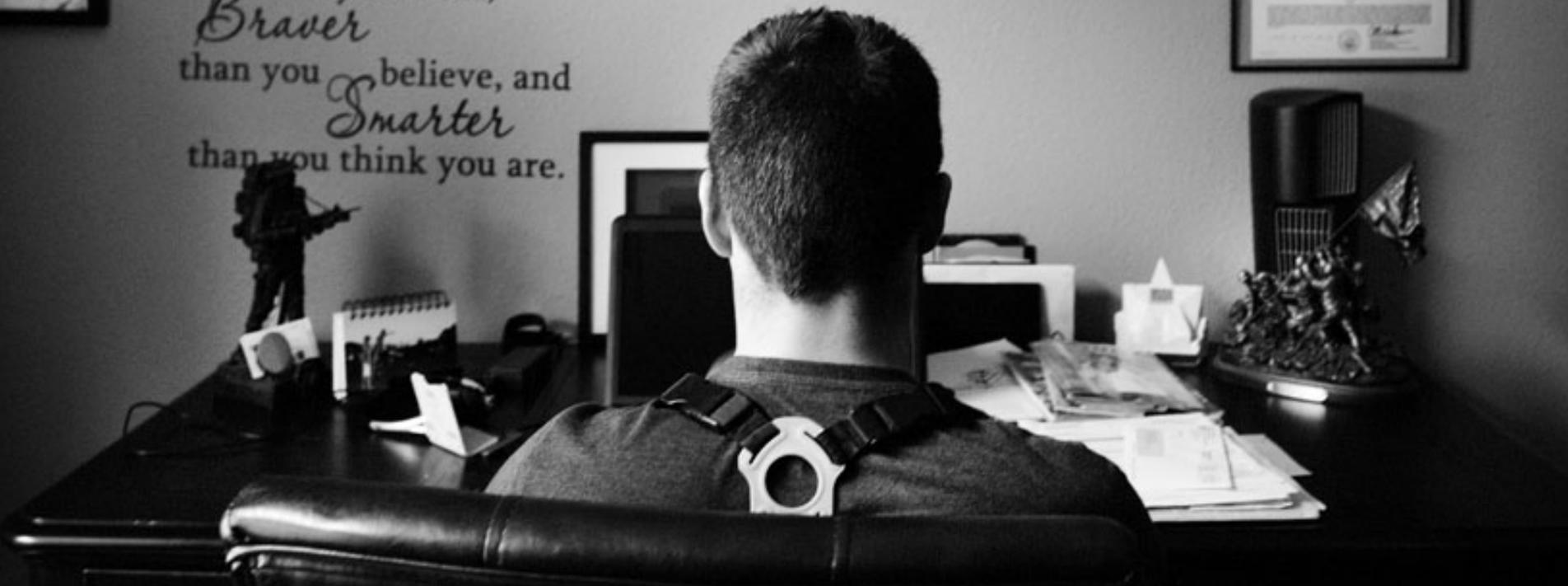
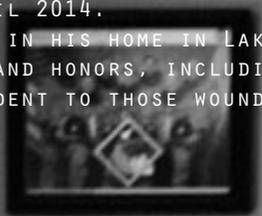
LAKE OZARK, MISSOURI, USA, 11 MAY 2016.
TODD NICELY DRIVING HIS BOAT.



LAKE OZARK, MISSOURI, USA. 13 APRIL 2014.

THE WALL OF TODD'S NICELY STUDY, IN HIS HOME IN LAKE OZARK,
IS A COLLAGE OF MILITARY AWARDS AND HONORS, INCLUDING THE PURPLE HEART,
AWARDED IN THE NAME OF THE PRESIDENT TO THOSE WOUNDED OR KILLED WHILE SERVING.

You are
Stronger
than you seem,
Braver
than you believe, and
Smarter
than you think you are.





LAKE OZARK, MISSOURI, USA. 14 APRIL 2014.
TODD NICELY CHANGING HIS ARTIFICIAL LIMBS. HE KEEPS THEM
IN HIS CLOSET, ALONG WITH HIS PANTS AND SHOES, AND HE HAS TO
CHANGE THEM ACCORDING TO THE ACTIVITIES HE NEEDS TO PERFORM.

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, USA. 2014. TODD NICELY WHILE PERFORMING ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK ON HIS ARTIFICIAL LIMBS WITH JULIE, HIS MOTHER, WHO HAS HELPED HIM SINCE HIS ACCIDENT.





LAKE OZARK, MISSOURI, USA, 2016.
TODD NICELY AND HIS MOTHER JULIE,
WHILE SHE HELPS HIM PUT ON HIS BLUE UNIFORM.

ELDON, MISSOURI, USA.
TODD NICELY PUSHING THE CART OUTSIDE WALMART.





parallel zero

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